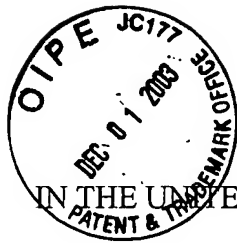


2831



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **KANDA, Masahiro**

Group Art Unit: **2831**

Serial No.: **10/050,170**

Examiner: **Chau N. Nguyen**

Filed: **January 18, 2002**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 7598

For. **WATERPROOF CONNECTOR AND RUBBER STOPPER THEREOF**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AND
STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(c)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 1, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. The European Search Report and one copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after issuance of a first official action on the merits and expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry in the national stage for the above-captioned application, but prior to issuance of either a final official action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

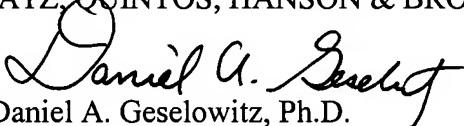
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The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP


Daniel A. Geselowitz, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicants

Reg. No. 42,573

DAG/plb
Atty. Docket No. **020066**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930

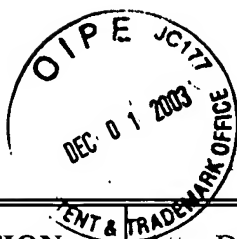


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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: PTO-1449; European Search Report and 5 references

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 020066	Serial No. 10/050,170
	Applicant(s): KANDA, Masahiro	
	Filing Date: January 18, 2002	Group Art Unit: 2831

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA	5,354,210	Koblitz et al.	10-11-94	439	276	
_____	AB	6,027,589	Kato et al.	2-22-00	156	73.2	
_____	AC	4,179,319	Lofdahl	12-18-79	156	86	
_____	AD						
_____	AE						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AF	WO 98/21798	5-22-98	PCT	
_____	AG	WO 86/06561	11-6-86	PCT	
_____	AH				
_____	AI				
_____	AJ				

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AK	
_____	AL	
Examiner	Date Considered	

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